(Received by email 8/8/03)

Dear Sirs,

AIST would like to comment on one aspect of the draft report.

At page 72-73, the report suggests that "fit and proper person" checks and deemed registration would be best addressed at the school level. This would appear to give schools the discretion to employ a teacher from interstate or NZ one month after the teacher had applied under MRA even if character checks had not been completed.

AIST supports the view of the Tasmanian Teacher Registration Board that schools should not be able to employ such teachers before the Board had completed character checks.

Whilst AIST would not normally support restrictions on schools, we do not want schools to suffer adverse consequences if they employ an unfit person mistakenly believing they are likely to pass character assessments.

AIST strongly recommends that the onus not be on schools to complete the character checks - that should remain the responsibility of the Registration Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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